

QUESTION RE SUNDAY
by Willis E. Bishop

Taken from Study in the Book of Ruth

I was asked a question which I thought might be of interest to you. Why is Sunday called the first day of the week?

A very simple answer would be that our weeks are based on the creation story in Genesis 1 and 2. On day one God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. On day two He divided the waters above from the waters beneath. The Earth was completely covered by water, and He moved some of that water into the upper atmosphere, creating our heavens. Then on the third day He brought forth the dry land. On the fourth day He placed the sun, moon and stars. On the fifth day He created the air and water animals - the birds and the fish. On the sixth day He created land animals and man. Then on the seventh day He rested because He had no more that He was going to create. So there was established a week, the seventh one of which is the sabbath, or the day of rest.

If God had had more to create, for example, he would have gone to an eighth day and a ninth day, a tenth day, and then ceased from His work of creation. In that case we would have had an eleven-day week, if I may call it that. But God didn't do it that way.

He finished creation in seven days, and on the eighth day you go back to day one. Therefore, based on the creation week of God in Genesis 1 and 2 we have a seven-day week, and the eighth day becomes the first day of the next week. It is on day one that we as Christians worship, though we should worship every day of the week.

God completed all in six days, rested on the seventh, and then the week starts over again with day one.

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